

LATE TESTIMONY

January 30, 2012

The Honorable Representative Karl Rhoads, Chair
The Honorable Representative Kyle Yamashita, Vice Chair
& Members of the House Committee on Labor and Public Employment
State Capitol
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Yamashita and Members of the Committee:

Re: HB 2773 – RELATING TO THE WEED AND SEED PROGRAM

I am appealing for your support of HB 2773 to sustain the Weed and Seed program in Kalihi-Chinatown-Ala Moana, Waipahu, and Ewa/Ewa Beach.

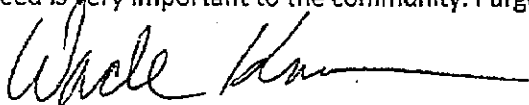
The collaborative effort involving law enforcement, residents, non-profit organizations, community groups and private businesses has helped reduce violent crime and drug-related crimes.

Working in public housing in the Kamehameha Homes and Kaahumanu Homes communities, I have seen the impact of the Weed & Seed program to reduce and prevent crime. Through its support of the tenant associations and the prevention activities that they conduct throughout the year; through graffiti removal and area beautification and through the establishment of Citizen's Patrols and regular communication and contact with district HPD officers; Weed & Seed has proven itself to be an integral part of the community and surrounding neighborhood.

Weed and Seed is an important organizational tool and community resource that needs to be continued. Your support of this important program will ensure that community leaders and partners continue to build a strong network of committed citizens that will work toward preventing crime and growing strong, healthy communities.

Weed and Seed is very important to the community. I urge you to support HB 2773.

Sincerely,



Wade Kau
BMW Supervisor II
Kamehameha Homes
State of Hawaii
Hawaii Public Housing Authority